

Desert refuge offers a truly varied landscape.

The Desert National Wildlife Refuge was originally established for the preservation and management of Nevada's desert bighorn sheep population, which had begun to decline as early as the 1880s. The desert bighorn sheep is the State animal of Nevada and, thanks in large part to the refuge and the work of groups such as the Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn and Nevada Bighorns Unlimited, our bighorn sheep population has been steadily rising in recent years.

I would be remiss if I didn't also take a few moments to talk about the incredible sheep range that runs up the east side of refuge. Rising nearly 10,000 feet out of the desert floor and running over 50 miles in length, this mountain range has engaged the imaginations of Americans since well before southern Nevada was settled. This most memorable natural landmark is one of the key reasons that President Nixon proposed much of the refuge for wilderness designation in 1974.

On this occasion of the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, I thank all those who have worked to protect these lands. I also salute those visionary individuals—some generations ago—that recognized the need to preserve this incredible habitat for desert bighorn sheep and the myriad of other species that still thrive on these lands.

#### CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF TOYOTA MOTOR MANUFACTURING, WEST VIRGINIA

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, West Virginians are both a prayerful and a prideful people. We cherish our State, honor its unique heritage, and revere its citizenry. Our respect for one another and for our joint accomplishments is apparent in every corner and cranny of this wondrous State, filled with unparalleled scenic beauty, old-fashioned hospitality, and a sincere commitment to excellence. Our belief in ourselves and in our abilities is apparent when we welcome our troops home from service overseas; when we watch our sons and daughters receive their high school diplomas; when our communities band together to overcome tragedy; or when we gather together to celebrate shared and lofty achievement. It is always the same: Mountaineer pride runs strong and deep in West Virginia.

West Virginia pride is particularly on display today in Buffalo, WV, where Toyota Motor Manufacturing, West Virginia, TMMWV, is celebrating its 10th anniversary. I commend Toyota on its commitment to West Virginia, and I heartily congratulate the company on its celebration of 10 years in the Mountaineer State.

I have seen, over the past decade, how hundreds of West Virginians each day have committed themselves to their work at Toyota. The high stand-

ards that have been set by the men and women who work at Toyota's facility in Buffalo show that our State, though small in size, successfully plays host to one of the world's largest, most successful, and well-respected companies. Toyota's plant in Buffalo truly deserves its fine reputation, based on its gains in productivity, its high standards for fine quality, and its unfailing commitment to the future.

Toyota Motor Manufacturing established its operations in West Virginia in 1996, and currently produces four-cylinder engines for the Toyota Corolla, the Matrix, and the Pontiac Vibe. It also produces V6 engines for the Toyota Sienna and Solara. The plant also manufactures automatic transmissions for the U.S.-built Solara, Sienna and Avalon, the Canadian-built Lexus RX 350, and the Japan-built Highlander, providing quality jobs for over 1,000 West Virginians. And employment there is projected to grow to 1,150 workers when the existing transmission plant is expanded as promised.

In fact, last year Toyota announced that it would undertake a \$120 million expansion of its engine and transmission plant in Buffalo. As a result, beginning in 2007, Toyota Motor Manufacturing in West Virginia will build 240,000 additional automatic transmissions per year. This will bring the plant's total automatic transmission capacity to 600,000 units, and this fifth expansion by Toyota in West Virginia will bring its total investment there to near the \$1 billion mark.

Every day, in Buffalo, hundreds of West Virginians commit themselves to superior performance. Toyota has become a highly valued member of the West Virginia business community, and the company's commitment to its continued expansion in our State sends a clear message to the world not only that West Virginia's workforce is top of the line, but also that communities throughout West Virginia make our State a beacon for business, including international investment. The employment provided by Toyota at Buffalo constitutes exactly the type of well-paying jobs, with accompanying health and pension benefits, that West Virginia workers so richly deserve.

Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to once again congratulate Toyota on its 10th anniversary in West Virginia. I thank Dr. Toyoda for believing in West Virginia. I also congratulate Toyota Motor Manufacturing, West Virginia President Yutaka Mizuno and the men and women of this plant for its all of its truly spectacular achievements in its first decade in our fair State.

I would also like to thank my dear friend and colleague, Senator JAY ROCKEFELLER, who worked so tirelessly and in such good faith to bring Toyota to West Virginia. JAY and I, and all West Virginians, are pleased and proud to have Toyota in Buffalo, WV. May this be the first of many more decades of partnership and accomplishment for

our State and for Toyota Motor Manufacturing.

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Indiana, on celebrating the 10th anniversary of its truck assembly plant in Princeton. Since opening its doors 10 years ago, Toyota's Princeton plant has spurred economic growth in southwest Indiana and brought quality, good-paying jobs to the State, giving more workers the opportunity to provide for their families and live the American dream.

When I was Governor, I was proud to join with Toyota Motor Corporation, TMC, Chairman Hiroshi Okuda in bringing the Toyota truck assembly plant to Princeton as part of my economic development for a growing economy, EDGE, initiative. Over the past 10 years, Toyota's Princeton plant has experienced remarkable growth, which has had a substantial, positive economic impact on the State of Indiana as well as the local economy.

Toyota's initial investment of \$700 million in the Princeton assembly plant led to the immediate creation of 1,300 family-wage jobs and resulted in the production of approximately 100,000 trucks per year. Today, Toyota's investment has grown to more than \$2.6 billion, and its truck assembly plant now employs more than 4,700 men and women who produce more than 300,000 vehicles each year, including the Tundra full-size pickup truck, Sequoia sport utility vehicle, and Sienna minivan.

This exceptional growth and the recent announcement of Toyota's collaboration with Subaru in Lafayette have made it one of Indiana's largest auto manufacturers. Toyota's efforts demonstrate its continued commitment to the State and highlight the contributions Toyota has made to the United States and local communities in Indiana.

It is estimated that Toyota's annual economic impact on the State of Indiana is equal to about 31,385 jobs, nearly \$503 million in employee compensation, and \$5.5 billion in business sales. A study conducted by the University of Evansville and the University of Southern Indiana estimates that in Gibson County alone, Toyota is annually responsible for 8,865 jobs, approximately \$119 million in employee compensation, and \$519 million in business sales.

I am honored to have the opportunity to enter this tribute in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the Senate and commend Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Indiana for all that it has done for Hoosier working men and women over the past 10 years.

#### DAY OF PRAYER FOR COLOMBIA

Mr. JOHNSON. This Sunday, members of Lutheran World Relief, in conjunction with churches and people of faith, will pray for a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Colombia. Lutheran World Relief advocates for those